

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
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Charlottesville, VA 22904
www.asrc.net



ASRC Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2014
University of Virginia, Newcomb Hall – Charlottesville, VA

| Group Member Participation | Present | Proxies |
|---|---------|---------|
| Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group | 5 | 15 |
| Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group | 8 | 3 |
| DELMARVA Search and Rescue Group | 4 | 0 |
| Maryland Search and Rescue | 4 | 0 |
| Mountaineer Area Rescue Group | 2 | 2 |
| Potomac Valley Rescue Group | 0 | 0 |
| Rapid Assistance to Community Emergencies | 2 | 14 |
| Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group | 2 | 21 |
| At-Large | 2 | |

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The 2014 AGM Meeting of the ASRC was opened with a welcome to all by Don Scelza, Chairman, at 1008 on Sunday, June 1, 2014, in the Kaleidoscope Room of Newcomb Hall at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. Chair Scelza announced that he was honored to be a part of the organization, pleased with the 40|40 Conference and pleased with the progress being made by the organization.

Chair Scelza introduced the ASRC Board Officers in attendance.

- Don Scelza, Chair
- Beth Huhn, Secretary
- Victoria Airey, Treasurer
- Andrew Hower, Conference Training Officer
- Michael Hansen, Conference Operations Officer

Attendees present and proxies declared by each group were counted (84). *(Based upon 2014 Group Rosters in possession of the Secretary and Article XI, D of the Articles of Incorporation, members present and proxies must equal or exceed one third of the membership to make a quorum = 106.666).* Chair requested teams do a better job of securing proxies prior to the meeting when members cannot attend. Weiss noted that per Roberts Rules of Order, continuation of the meeting is acceptable in the absence of a quorum, if a quorum call is not initiated.

II. Chairman's Report

A. Vision and Goals

Chair Scelza indicated he will write down and share the ASRC vision and goals he announced during the May 31, 2014, 40|40 Conference dinner key note address.

During the 2013 AGM, there was an open discussion regarding how the ASRC can better support each Group. The Chair provided an update regarding each item documented during the 2013 AGM, and will continue to relay progress on each at future meetings:

1. Groups are juggling multiple certifications – can the ASRC help to promote ASRC standards as acceptable to state specific authorities?

Chair and the new Conference Training Officer will work with Groups to promote the acceptance of ASRC certifications.

Update: Progress is being made. The PA SAR Coordinator shared during the 40|40 Conference state specific advances. Other teams from the ASRC can join PASARCO. The FTM standards of the ASRC are accepted in PA. The issue in VA remains the administrative process and paperwork. Maryland can request assistance from other ASRC teams (until NRP is involved). VA teams can request assistance from other ASRC teams. Groups will be the driving forces in each state. Certified ASRC Search Manager response capabilities should not be limited, regardless of whether they respond as a specific group member or general conference resource. Conference needs to work on certification acceptance administratively, but any changes will not impact the conference operationally.

Chair strongly encouraged team leaders to engage membership to become involved in remote support. Encouraging more commitment and participation in

this area is not only beneficial for each Group, but also the Conference as a whole.

Chair recommended that Groups continue local outreach and encouraged coordination of joint trainings with local authorities.

2. Reciprocity among states – can ASRC help?

Training standards are generally accepted, but the certification method is not. Cross-certification among teams will require work across the conference of both training and operations.

Update: Progress being made. Driving PTB's that are in development to meet ASTM standards. Chair and CTO working on a more detailed schedule for completion of the PTB/certification project.

Member noted that certification policy is more essential than the PTB's themselves. It is possible that a preamble to the PTB documentation will be necessary in VA, documenting Board governance over the certification process.

3. How many people would like standard ASRC written tests?

General agreement by attendees. Could create a question bank and pool vetted bank for all teams to use (possibly extended to practical testing). Scope of actual testing and certification requires future discussion: how to certify, cadre of certifiers/evaluators, how evaluators will be chosen – then develop standard testing. Create new document devoted to certification versus including in Administrative Manual.

Update: Progress being made. Officers putting a plan in place to document more detailed schedule for completion.

4. Request for Groups to notify all other Groups when they host speakers.

Possibly the conference could sponsor speakers to present topics to the conference. Joint training opportunities are desired – integrate classroom and practical exercise.

Update: The 40|40 Conference was a start to provide speakers and informational briefings. Request made for groups to post training details on their Group Google calendars, so will automatically cross-post to the (combined) calendar present on asrc.net.

B. Operations Manual

Some progress made. Hope to have draft out soon for review.

C. 40|40 Conference

Chair thanked the founding members for participating in the Conference/AGM weekend. All founders added a great deal to the conference and it was invaluable that they were able to provide continuity across the years.

Chair asked Secretary to post on the ASRC Facebook page:

The ASRC held the 40|40 Conference on May 31, 2014, in Charlottesville, VA, and founders Keith Conover, Gene Harrison and Ray Cole were able to attend. We endeavor to sustain the spirit they infused into the organization.

Chair reported that no ASRC funds were utilized for the conference – BRMRG covered most of the cost with financial support also provided by SMRG. Chair reported that two anonymous donors provided the ASRC challenge coins (\$1,218.00) and the ASRC lapel pins (\$918.00).

Chair recognized the 40|40 Conference Planning Committee:

Don Ferguson
Beth Huhn
Don Scelza
Steve Weiss
Laura Dodson
Doug Moore

The Planning Committee provided oversight and support, but BRMRG should be commended for all of their “boots on the ground” work.

Chair asked Secretary to post on the ASRC Facebook page:

Thank You to the Planning Committee, and a separate post to thank BRMRG for all of their efforts in coordinating and hosting the 40|40 Conference.

Chair respectfully requested that BRMRG share final financials for the Conference for use in planning future events.

Several members present requested that the ASRC website be updated to include more history about the organization. Conover relayed that the history document prepared by himself, Harrison and Cole could be utilized as a starting point.

III. Recognition Celebration

A. Chairman Scelza formally recognized the following Group Members by awarding each a certificate for their length of service and dedication to the lost person. Members recognized for 5 years of service were also awarded an ASRC lapel pin.

| TEAM | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | Recognized LoS | Pin Awarded |
|--------|-----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| AMRG | Hostetter | Rebecca | 5 | Y |
| AMRG | McCandless | Ben | 5 | Y |
| AMRG | Menendez | Eric | 5 | Y |
| AMRG | Ray | Joe | 5 | Y |
| AMRG | Jackson | Scott | 10 | |
| AMRG | Chiacchia | Kenneth | 20 | |
| AMRG | Houlahan | Heather | 20 | |
| AMRG | Scelza | Don | 25 | |
| AMRG | Conover | Keith | 40* | |
| BRMRG | Holroyd | Michael | 5 | Y |
| BRMRG | Strackbein | Vanessa | 5 | Y |
| BRMRG | Stronko | Gregory | 5 | Y |
| BRMRG | Stronko | Alexander | 5 | Y |
| BRMRG | Van Den Bossche | Michael | 5 | Y |
| BRMRG | Rudmin | John | 10 | |
| BRMRG | Koester | Robert | 30 | |
| BRMRG | Krenz | Rita | 30 | |
| BRMRG | Ritter | Steven | 30 | |
| DMVSAR | Derepentigny | Pete | 5 | Y |
| DMVSAR | Grice | Sarah | 5 | Y |
| DMVSAR | Isaacs | Grace | 5 | Y |
| DMVSAR | Pierce | Chad | 5 | Y |
| DMVSAR | White | Bryan | 5 | Y |
| MSAR | Markham | Kristen | 10 | |
| MSAR | Raskin | Larry | 10 | |
| MSAR | Sehman | Alex | 15 | |
| MSAR | Sehman | Chuck | 15 | |
| MSAR | Tosh | Donna | 15 | |
| SMRG | Alexander | Courtney | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Allen | Danny | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Brandt | Erin | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Buursink | Marc | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Coates | Melissa | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Hargenrader | George | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Harner | Craig | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Herning | Ronald | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Higgins | Joe | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | King | Jocelyn | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Kinney | Douglas | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Kluge | Ian | 5 | Y |

| TEAM | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | Recognized LoS | Pin Awarded |
|------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| SMRG | Lee | Robinson | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Loftus | Tom | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | McKee | Colin | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Nixon | David | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Oelschlager | Roy | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Pryor | David | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Richards | Jennifer | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Riley | Jeff | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Snyder | Kirk | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Stone | Chris | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Storey | Alex | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Strackbein | Vanessa | 5 | Dual Group – pin via BRMRG |
| SMRG | Tanner | Nathan | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Tanner | Kim | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Thomas | Chris | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Wynne | Daniel | 5 | Y |
| SMRG | Anderson | Jeff | 10 | |
| SMRG | Crabtree | Keith | 10 | |
| SMRG | Crabtree | Robin | 10 | |
| SMRG | Creighton | Mark | 10 | |
| SMRG | Damkot | Michael | 10 | |
| SMRG | FitzGerald | Trisha | 10 | |
| SMRG | Hower | Andrew | 10 | |
| SMRG | Laikin | Chuck | 10 | |
| SMRG | McLellan | Alex | 10 | |
| SMRG | O'Connell | Charles | 10 | |
| SMRG | Padraic | Hughes | 10 | |
| SMRG | Smith | Christopher | 10 | |
| SMRG | Smith | Dawn | 10 | |
| SMRG | Weiss | Steve | 10 | |
| SMRG | Wittig | Dale | 10 | |
| SMRG | Kennedy | Mike | 15 | |
| SMRG | Swett | George | 30* | |

* Post-Meeting Note: corrective action was taken to address administrative errors

Since there was a period of time where pins were not awarded for the first 5 years of ASRC service, the Chair requested that Groups assess and report to the Secretary the

number of members with at least 5 years of service that have not yet received an ASRC lapel pin. Groups to work with Secretary to secure number of pins needed.

B. Chairman Scelza formally recognized the following Group Members by awarding each a certificate for their contributions and service.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

MSAR - PAMELA PAULDING

In recognition of Pamela Paulding's long-term service and dedication as Maryland Search and Rescue's (MSAR) board member, former Chairman of the Board and former Senior Advisor. Over the years, Pamela has invested countless hours in leading MSAR and serving as a SAR responder throughout the ASRC response area. She is adept at bringing out the best in her fellow team members. Her engagement in the SAR community has really made a difference.

MSAR - DAN SWEARINGEN

In recognition of Dan Swearingen's service and dedication as Maryland Search and Rescue's (MSAR) Chairman of the Board and former Vice President. Dan has ensured that the administrative mechanics of operating MSAR were executed flawlessly. He can always be counted on to take care of the details that keep MSAR running. His dedication to the SAR mission is exemplary.

DMVSAR - JAMES D. JACKSON

Exemplary Service Above and Beyond

In recognition for unwavering dedication to DVMSAR and its members, Jim has given all and more, countless times. His current endeavors with the team are to manage the CERT instruction program. This is a vital component to this organization because nearly all of our operational funds come from teaching the everyday individual the skills needed to be a vital part of their community in a disaster situation. He has held nearly all board and officer positions over the last 10 years. He is also a founding member of the team.

Jim is a true believer in what we, as an organization do! He is a get done guy, with a get it done attitude. His skills as a mentor are enormous and highly coveted by those whom he has touched.

I see it only fitting that James D. Jackson is awarded a certificate for Exemplary Service Above and Beyond.

He's the heartbeat of this Team, and the glue that binds us together! "So Others May Live"

V. Thank You / Adjourn

Chair Scelza extended a Thank You to all participants.

Carl Werntz announced that he was relaying the Search Manager rockers he had on-hand to the Conference Training Officer, Andrew Hower.

The meeting was adjourned at 1133.

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The foregoing minutes are reported to the best of my knowledge.

Beth A. Huhn, ASRC Secretary